

Newsletter – Autumn Term 1 2025

A new school year



Eight weeks into the new academic year and there is already so much to share and celebrate in our school. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the children and their families who have started with us in Nursery and Reception, and children and families joining us in other year groups across the school. We are also pleased to welcome many new faces to the staff team as our school continues to grow. Miss Wymer joins our teaching team along with Miss Pavlyk, and Mrs Rodde-Aust boosting our Teaching Assistant team. Please see the 'Who's who' on our website for a full breakdown of staff teams across the school.

Student teachers

Through our partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University, we welcome student teachers on a regular basis to our school. We would like to welcome Mali Edwards, Vasco Felix and Luke Raymond to Pentyrch for the Autumn Term as they begin their PGCE Primary studies. They will be working with Nursery / Reception, Year 3 and Year 6 respectively and will soon be familiar names in your homes.

Our Pupil Groups

In Pentyrch we place high value on the influence the children can have in bringing about school improvement.

Head Pupils and House Captains

Our Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to act as role models for the school, represent the school at events in and out of school and encourage and motivate their peers through learning and play. As is tradition in Pentyrch, each September sees the election of our new Head Pupils and House Captains to create the Year 6 pupil leadership team. Year 6 pupils also take on the role of Buddies supporting children across the school and in Calon with play, building relationships and supporting wellbeing.



Congratulations this year goes to:

Head Boy: Arlo

Head Girl: Orla

Deputy Head Boy: Vadim

Deputy Head Girl: Lexi



House captains

Ty Melyn: Isla and Mia

Ty Coch: Molly and Sylvie

Ty Glas: Mia and Orla

Ty Gwyrdd: Alicia and Elin

Aside from all pupils having the opportunity to influence learning opportunities on a day-to-day basis, every child from year 1 – 6 has the opportunity to have their voice heard through being a part of a pupil group. Each year group takes responsibility for the following aspects of school life and have two nominated representatives to share their work in the school's Senedd.



Maes – Eco Warriors – reps – Olivia and Gwennan

Catwg – Digital Leaders – reps- Luca and Sienna

Bronllwyn – Active and Healthy – reps- Lylah and Nia

Garth- Pupil Leadership Group – reps- Imaya and Teddie

In addition, we also have a thriving Criw Cymraeg including pupils from year 1-6 and look forward to seeing the pupil's work and the impact they have over the course of the year.



Friends of Pentyrch School Association

This year FOPSA, our PTA, will be fundraising once again to provide a wide range of resources and activities for the children. We are looking forward to hosting lots of events in school for our families. At the recent AGM the following were elected / re-elected to the main administrative positions:

Chair person: Lucy O'Leary

Vice Chair person: Tamsyn Webster

Secretary: Jo-Dee Tame

Treasurer: Alice Clarke

Thank you to Phillip Barry for all of his support as he steps down as Treasurer.



We have already kicked off the year with our Halloween Spooktacular – a frightening evening of family fun and scarily good costumes enjoyed by all. We are always looking for parents and carers to join our PTA in any capacity be it through attending meetings or volunteering before, during and/or after events. We are very grateful of any support to continue to grow our PTA.

School news from Autumn Term 1

Exploring Pentyrch

To kick off their exciting new learning expedition, *Our Planet, Our Future*, the children in Year 1 and 2 took to the streets of Pentyrch village for a hands-on geography adventure. Armed with maps and a sense of curiosity, the pupils explored their local surroundings. They used directional vocabulary to navigate the village, gave each other directions, and carefully observed landmarks and features to add to their maps. Back in the classroom, the children used their notes and observations to create detailed map keys, enhancing their understanding of symbols and spatial awareness. The experience supported their learning about the environment and helped them connect more deeply with their local community.



Animal Encounters

As part of our ongoing expedition exploring the impact of climate change, Year 5 had an exciting visit from A&S Animal Encounters. The team brought in a fascinating array of animals from around the world, each one critically endangered or vulnerable due to the effects of climate change. The children were all fascinated as they learned about the unique adaptations of these animals and discovered practical ways we can all help protect their habitats. The session sparked excitement and curiosity especially when the firm favourite Binturong made its grand entrance! One pupil said, *“The animals were so much fun, the Binturong was my favourite because it smelled like popcorn!”*



Macmillan coffee morning – Friday 26th September



Learning and
Growing Together

We were very pleased to take part in this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning to help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a lovely event, and thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised an impressive **£386.37**. Parents were invited to join us for a relaxing morning with tea, coffee, and toasted teacakes served in the hall. It was a great chance to catch up and enjoy a treat together.



Children brought in a fantastic selection of homemade and shop-bought cakes, which were sold during the morning. A big thank you to **Year 6**, who helped run the cake stall as part of their real life Maths work — they were responsible for making cakes, setting up, serving, budgeting, working out profit and handling the money. They did a brilliant job. We're very grateful to everyone who donated cakes, came along, or contributed in any way. Your support means a lot and helps Macmillan continue their important work.

Pentyrch Primary Pupils Help Clean Up the Village!

On Saturday 27th September, pupils and parents from Pentyrch Primary School proudly took part in the village litter pick as part of the Big Cardiff Tidy 2025 campaign. Armed with litter pickers, gloves, and plenty of enthusiasm, the children worked incredibly hard to collect rubbish from around the local area. Their efforts made a real difference, helping to keep our village clean and beautiful. Not only did they show great teamwork and determination, but they also set a fantastic example to others in the community. Well done to all the pupils and families who took part – you've made Pentyrch proud!



Harvest



Father Edward Owen visited our school earlier this month and talked to us about the importance of Harvest to Christians. We learnt about how we can be grateful for what we have and why it is important to support those less fortunate than us. He encouraged us to donate to our school's Food Bank Collection and, as a school, we managed to donate nearly 60kg of items to a local food bank. Thank you everyone for your kind donations.

Playing the pBones

Year 4 have enjoyed a half term filled with music!
Alongside their Friday Rock

School sessions, the class have started to learn to play the pBone. A pBone is a fantastic introduction into trombone playing. The class have enjoyed learning about the instrument, developing their musical skills and making lots of noise!



Dosbarth Calon



Our Special Resource Base is now into its second year and continues to go from strength to strength. Calon pupils have been getting involved in activities across the school including assemblies, play times and visits with mainstream pupils support the children with social and play opportunities in their role as Buddies. The children love getting out and about in the school grounds and particularly enjoyed a sensory filled afternoon recently, exploring the wet leaves and forest area as part of their outdoor learning.



A Special Morning with Knit and Natter

We were delighted to welcome members of the local Knit and Natter group to join Year 1 and 2 for a heart-warming Harvest Tea Party. The children worked hard in preparation for the event, baking a delicious assortment of cookies and cupcakes to share with their guests. The morning began with a cheerful performance of harvest songs, sung with enthusiasm and pride by the children. It was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to learn more about their visitors, ask questions, and hear stories from different generations. The event was a beautiful celebration of community, connection, and kindness, a truly lovely morning enjoyed by all.

Year 6's Unforgettable Adventure to Llangrannog!

Our Year 6 pupils have just returned from an amazing five-day residential trip to Llangrannog — and what a week it was! From the moment they arrived, the children threw themselves into a packed schedule of exciting activities including skiing, horse riding, archery, go-karting, high ropes, and zip-lining. They also enjoyed beach walks, movie nights, and plenty of time to relax and bond with friends. Over the five days, pupils showed incredible resilience, teamwork, and independence, making the most of every opportunity and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Staff were so proud of how well they represented Pentyrch Primary, showing kindness, enthusiasm, and a brilliant attitude throughout. It was a joyful celebration of learning beyond the classroom — one that will be remembered for years to come! A huge thanks to Mrs Bates, Miss Coombes, Mr Raymond and Ms Davies for taking the children and taking time away from their own families to give the children the best week and memories to last a lifetime. If you would like to learn more about the children's adventures, please look at our Instagram page – [pentyrchprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/pentyrchprimaryschool)



Shwmae Su'mae Day



The school celebrated Shwmae Su'mae Day on the 15th October. The day was filled with Welsh music, language and crafts. Pupils and staff greeted one another with 'Shwmae' and made good use of their Welsh language skills throughout the day in class, on the playground and over lunch. The whole school embraced Welsh culture and language to celebrate Shwmae Su'mae day.

Scarecrow



We are delighted to be taking part once again in the 'Pentyrch Scarecrow Trail' this half term. Year 1 and 2 alongside Mrs Coleman had great fun building our scarecrow for the trail around the village. Make sure you look out for our scarecrow when you are out and about! We hope that our scarecrow and the other scarecrows around the village go a long way to support fund raising for community projects.

Show Racism the Red Card - Wear Red Day #WRD25

As part of Show Racism the Red Card Day, the children came together to stand up against racism and celebrate diversity. The whole school was a sea of red as every

child proudly wore something red to show their support for equality, kindness, and inclusion.

The day was filled with thoughtful discussions and creative activities aimed at helping pupils understand the importance of respect and unity. Year 1 and 2 spent time thinking talking about what a united world would look like — a world where everyone is valued and included, no matter their background, skin colour, language, or beliefs. The children shared wonderful ideas about friendship, fairness, and celebrating our differences.

The school community was very proud of how the children expressed their thoughts and support for such an important cause. Show Racism the Red Card Day at Pentyrch Primary was not only about wearing red — it was about showing that every act of kindness and understanding helps make the world a better place for everyone. <https://www.theredcard.org/>





Diwali

Each class celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of light this week by completing a range of lovely activities. From beautiful Diya lamps, learning the story of Rama and Sita, researching and writing reports and making symmetrical Rangoli patterns, the children embraced learning about the festival and understanding the celebrations that take place.

Thank you Pentyrch Community Council

We recently received some spring bulbs from the PCC for school. The children have enjoyed planting them and can't wait to see them start to grow and bloom next year. Thank you for the kind donation.

School uniform



We continue to encourage high standards of school uniform that brings us all such collective pride. We have widened the range of school uniform available to purchase through our supplier www.safewearuk.com all at reasonable prices. This includes brand new PE T-Shirts in house colours. Alternatively feel free to visit the uniform section of your local supermarket and look for their generic red, white and grey clothing. Please remember that we ask all our pupils to wear black school shoes to complement their uniform and that with the exception of stud earrings and 'kids' watches, no jewellery should be worn for school.

The following clothing / footwear is also required on specific days of the week.

Health and Wellbeing Days – wear PE kit to school

Additional PE Days – wear school uniform but wear dark leggings / joggers and trainers

Outdoor Learning – wear school uniform, bring wellies (named) and warm / waterproof outdoor coats, hats, scarves, gloves

We also have a range of pre-loved school uniform in our Sharing Shed by the school office. You are all very welcome to take items and we are always looking for donations of uniform that is still in good condition.

Little Haven Pentyrch and The Haven After School Club

Little Haven provide our wraparound care for Nursery pupils and an after-school club for all pupils. Wraparound sessions run daily in the morning and the afternoon and Little Haven are registered with the 30 hours scheme and other childcare voucher schemes. Morning sessions are also open to children from the age of 2 plus. The Haven After-School Club for Nursery to Year 6 pupils operates from 3.30-5.30 pm with a range of activities for all ages. Should you wish to take up places in either provision, please call Little Haven directly on 029 2278 1919 to discuss your needs further or email learn@littlehavennursery.co.uk

Wishing you all a fantastic half term.

From all the staff at Pentyrch Primary School

